

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Automotive service and repair industry – Slips, trips, falls and housekeeping

Stopping, or at least decreasing injuries from slips, trips and falls at work can be done! Keeping the workplace clean and tidy will go a long way toward preventing injuries from slips and trips. It will also reduce the possibility of people sustaining cuts from materials, overhanging benches, shelves etc.

To reduce slips in your workplace, consider:

- increasing the slip resistance of flooring, ramps and slopes by:
 - installing slip resistant flooring surfaces
 - applying treatments such as sand-blasting, coatings or acid etching to existing floor surfaces
- repairing leaking equipment such as hydraulic vehicle hoists/jacks to prevent liquids getting onto the floor
- capturing leaking oil from vehicle engines in oil trays or similar
- using mats at entrances that prevent water being tracked inside on rainy days
- extracting dust from the work area through a mechanical dust extraction system
- having procedures in place to clean up dust, spills, leaks and waste
- regularly cleaning the workplace floor (perform wet cleaning outside of work hours or dry surfaces before pedestrian traffic is allowed in the cleaned area)
- providing workers with appropriate footwear.

Trips can be minimised by:

- clearly marking walkways and ensuring tools, materials and waste are not put in these areas

- providing enough storage to keep tools, materials and waste out of walkways and work areas
- supporting electrical leads and air hoses overhead to keep them off the floor
- ensuring damaged floors and walkways are repaired
- minimising changes in floor level. If levels must change, ramps are preferable to steps
- ensuring there is good lighting
- painting the edges of large pieces of equipment (such as frame straighteners and vehicle hoists) in a bright colour to make them more visible.

Reducing injuries from falls can be done by:

- fitting railings to mezzanine floors and raised storage areas
- ensuring that people have three points of contact when working from a ladder (or a stable object) at all times and secure the ladder to prevent it moving. Three points of contact means either two hands and a foot or one hand and two feet in contact with the ladder at all times
- providing anti-slip surfaces on climbing areas
- ensuring people wear footwear with adequate slip resistance which is suitable for the work being done
- providing enough light for the task being performed
- maintaining equipment such as ladders to prevent their failure

For further information on slips, trips and falls and other health and safety issues call 1300 369 915 or visit www.deir.qld.gov.au

© *The State of Queensland (Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland) 2009.*

Copyright protects this document. The State of Queensland has no objection to this material being reproduced, but asserts its right to be recognised as author of the original material and the right to have the material unaltered.

The material presented in this publication is distributed by the Queensland Government as an information source only. The State of Queensland makes no statements, representations, or warranties about the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication, and the reader should not rely on it. The Queensland Government disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including, without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason.